

Articles and Orders, made and agreed upon the 9th Day of July, 1647.

and in the three and twentieth Year of the Raign of our Sovereign Lord Charles,

by the Grace of God, King of *England, Scotland, France, and Ireland*; Defender of the Faith, &c.

By the Company of ADVENTURERS for the PLANTATION of the Islands of ELEUTHERIA, formerly called BUHAMA in AMERICA, and the adjacent Islands to be observed and performed by all and singular ADVENTURERS, to PLANTERS and dwellers upon, and all *Resiants* at the same *I S L A N D S*.

Whereas experience hath shewed us the great inconveniencies that have happened, both in this Kingdom of *England*, and other places, by a rigid imposing upon all an uniformity and conformity in matters of judgement and practice in the things of Religion, whereby divisions have been made, factions fomented, persecutions induced, and the publick peace endangered. And for that we well know, that in this state of darkness, we know but in part, That there are both babes and strongmen in *Christ*: And that every Member who holds the head, and is of the body of *Jesus Christ*, hath not the same place and office, nor the same measure of light, who yet desire and endeavour daily to increase in knowledge. And in the mean time walk according to what they have received, in all godliness, justice & sobriety. And whereas experience hath also shewed us, That the peace and happy progress of all Plantations, doth much depend upon the good government thereof, the equal distribution of justice, and respect to all persons, without faction or distinction, the certain knowledge and manifestation of every ones right and proprieties, and carefull provisions for common defence and safety.

It is therefore ordered, That all such person and persons, who are so as aforesaid qualified, shall be received and accepted as Members of the said Company of *Adventurers*, and into the said *Plantation*, notwithstanding any other difference of judgement, under whatsoever other names conveyed, walking with justice and sobriety, in their particular conversations, and living peaceably and quietly as Members of the Re-publick.

That there shall be no names of distinction or reproach, as *Independent, Antinomian, Anabaptist*, or any other cast upon any such for their difference in judgement, neither yet shall any person or persons, assume or acknowledge any such distinguishing names, under the penalty of being accompted (in both cases, either of imposing or accepting or assuming any such name or names) as enemies of the publick peace: nor shall any man speak reproachfully of any person for his opinion, or of the opinion it self, otherwise then in the *Scripture* Language.

That no Magistracie or Officers of the Republike, nor any power derived from them, shall take notice of any man for his difference in judgement in matter of Religion, or have cognizance of any cause whatsoever of that nature: But that their jurisdiction shall reach onely to men as men, and shall take care that justice, peace, and sobriety, may be maintained among them. And that the flourishing state of the re-publick may be by all just means promoted.

That the present *Adventurers*, and all other persons, who within the space of one year now next ensuing, shall bring into the publick stock, the sum of 100 l. shall be admitted and reckoned into the number of the first *Adventurers*, their number not exceeding one hundred persons.

That every one of the number of the first *Adventurers*, shall have three hundred Acres of Land, laid out for him and his Heires for ever, in the first convenient place which shall be chosen, by those persons of the number of first *Adventurers*, who go to the said *Plantation*, in the present expedition and shipping. And that the said quantity of three hundred Acres for each first *Adventurer*; shall at the end of the first three yeares, or sooner, if the major part of the said number or Company of first *Adventurers* shall require the same, shall be divided and set out by lot, unto every particular person. And that in the mean time, all the same Land shall be employed and improved for the joynt advantage of the said Company. And that for the further and better encouragement of the said first *Adventurers*, every one of the said Company of first *Adventurers* shall have two thousand Acres more of Land, to be laid out for him and his Heires for ever, in such place or places as shall be most convenient and satisfactory unto him, and least prejudicial or disadvantageous to the publick. And that this shall be effected with as much convenient speed, as the occasions of the *Plantation* will permit. And that all the adjacent Islands shall be reserved to, and laid out and had for the use of the said Company of first *Adventurers*.

That as well every one of the *Adventurers* aforesaid, as also every other person, who shall at any time or times, within three yeares transport, at his own charge, unto the said *Plantation*, any person or persons, shall have and enjoy to him the said Transporter and his Heires for ever, the quantity of thirty five Acres of Land per person, for every person which he shall so transport; the same Land to be set out and appointed for him, by such as shall be hereafter authorized for that purpose by the first *Adventurers* upon the place. And that if any Servants or Children, or other persons who shall be shipped to be transported to the said *Plantation*, shall after their shipping miscarry, or die by the way: yet nevertheless, the person at whose charge any such miscarrying or dying person, Child or Servant, was shipped shall have and enjoy to him and his Heires for ever in the said *Plantation*, and to be set out and appointed as aforesaid, the quantity of thirty five Acres for or in respect of each one person, so dying or miscarrying, in as ample manner, as if he had been safely transported, and come into the said *Plantation*. And that every other person and persons, that shall adventure, after three yeares shall have five and twenty Acres.

That every Servant being a *Christian*, which shall be transported to the said *Plantation*, and shall serve out his time agreed upon, to the use of him who transported him, or of his Assignes, shall at the end of his said time of service, have and enjoy to him the said Servant and his Heires for ever, the quantity of twenty and five Acres of Land, to be allowed and set out for him by such as shall be authorized by the Governour and Council. And for the better fortifying of the said *Plantations*, and for the encouragement of the first *Adventurers* in a work of that hazard; and also for the exciting and awaking the industry of all: It is further ordered and agreed;

That whatsoever Ordinance can be recovered of any wracks, shall be wholly employed for the use of the publick, and serve for the fortification of the *Plantation*.

That all other wracks which shall be recovered upon, or near the Islands, or upon or near any the adjacent Islands: And also all Mynes of Gold, Silver, Copper, Brasse or Lead, Ambergreife, salt; and all rich woods, either for tincture or medicament, which shall be had or found upon or neer the Islands or territories aforesaid, in any Land not divided, or set over to any particular proprietor, shall be delivered into the Custody of two such persons, Merchants or Agents for the said Company, as shall be yearly chosen by the said Company for that purpose, and the same Mines, Wracks, Ambergreife, Metalles, Salts, and Woods, shall be by the said two Agents, made fit for sale, and be by them withall convenient speed, sold for the best price and advantage, and the whole price and value thereof (the Charges and wages for the procuring and fitting of them for sale, being first deducted and discharged) shall be divided into three equal parts and shares; and the first of the same three parts, shall be unto him or them, who shall be the undertaker or finder thereof: the second part shall be paid and distributed unto, and among the first *Adventurers*, their Heires, Executors and assignes, equally: and the other third part shall be paid and delivered into the publick Treasury of the said *Plantation*, to be employed and laid out for the use of the publick, by order and warrant from the Governour and Council there, for the time being. But if the same shall be found in any of the Lands appropriated, the first third part shall be to the owner or proprietor of the same Lands, and the other two thirds as aforesaid: That when the *Plantation* shall sufficiently be fortified, and all necessary publick works finished, and the generall Magazines sufficiently stored, then what shall be spared of the publick third in the wracks and Commodities aforesaid, shall be employed in works of mercy and charity, and for the transporting from *England* and other places such godly people as shall be willing to go unto the said *Plantations*, and are not able to beare the charge of their transportation and settling there.

That no person shall pretend unto, or claim any Wracks, Mynes, Ambergreife, Salt, or rich woods, as aforesaid; for, or by reason of their growing, or being in or upon his lot or share of ground, which shall be appointed to him as above said; but all the said particulars shall be disposed and employed, as before is expressed. That none of the said rich Woods growing upon Lands not appropriated, shall be cut down by any person, but by warrant first had and obtained from the Governour and Council for that purpose; and if any shall do otherwise, then he that shall cut, or cause to be cut, any of the said Woods without such warrant, shall loose and forfeit all that share which he might under any qualification whatsoever, pretend unto in the said Woods; and the same forfeiture shall be to the use of the said *Colony*. That if any places shall appear fit for making salt, which yet makes it not naturally, then the salt-works shall be perfected at the publick charge, and the provenue thereof to come into the publick Treasury, and be employed for ever for the publick service, as aforesaid. That no Inhabitant of these *Plantations*, shall in their converse with any of the *Natives* of any of those parts, offer them any wrong, violence, or incivility whatsoever; but shall deal with them with all justice and sweetness, so far as may stand with their own safety, thereby to work in them a good opinion of love, unto the ways and knowledg of God, which every one shall endeavour to hold forth, and communicate unto them in the best manner that they can. And whereas the Company is informed, that there are some *Indians* have been taken and sold at some of the *Caribe* Islands: It is therefore agreed and ordered, that the *Indians* shall be sought out and redeemed: And after they have some time continued in those *Plantations*, for their instructions, and make them sensible of the benefit. They shall be then returned to the places from which they were taken, that every *Planter* shall himself provide Arms and Ammunition sufficient, for his own persons (going to the said *Plantations*) and for every Male that he shall transport thither, who is or shall be from time to time able to bear Arms, and that such *adventurer* shall not have his share of Land set out unto him for any Male person, unless he be as aforesaid, provided of sufficient Arms and Ammunition for them. That all in the said *Plantations* from the age of sixteen to sixty yeares, shall be ready to come to the severall Randevious appointed them, upon any Alarm, ready and armed for the defence of the *Plantations*; That none shall be compelled to take Arms, or go to war out of the *Country* unless it be for the necessary defence thereof, and to expel or divert an eminent invasion, neither shall any be suffered to take any depredations or invasions upon any, either by Sea or Land, unless upon a War first begun by them, and open War by the said *Plantations*, first denounced against them. That the Government of the said Islands and *Plantations*, shall be continued in a Senate of the number of one hundred persons; and that the Company of the first *Adventurers* aforesaid, shall at present be the same Senate. And whensoever any of them shall die or sell away his Interest in the said *Plantations*; then there shall be another elected in his roome from time to time, by the Major part of the said Senate, out of the other *Adventurers* and *Planters* *Resiant* in the said Islands. And the same election shall be made in this manner, (*viz.*) First, 20. fit persons shall be nominated. Then those 20. reduced to the number of 4. by scrutiny, and out of those 4. one to be chosen by Ballotines. And so from time to time, as often as any Member of the said Senate, shall decease or shall alien or discontinue his interest in the said *Plantations*, or shall be moved by the said Senate, upon just cause or complaint. And that the same Senate shall from time to time, make election of all Officers, for doing of justice, and distribution and setting out of Lands, and for the care and oversight of all publick works, and shall have the ordering and disposing of all publick monies. That after the first three yeares expired, there shall be yearly a Governour and 12. Councillers chosen out of the said number, of 100. Senators, who shall take the daily care of all things necessary for the prosperity of the *Plantation*; and that it in nothing suffer detriment or decay. And that the publick peace be maintained between man and man, and speedy justice done unto every man that shall seek it at their hands. And that the said Governour and Council, shall have power to call together upon any emergency, to the said Senate or so many of them, as shall then be upon the said Islands, and to act and execute what shall be by the said convention of Senators, ordered and referred, or committed unto them. That the first Governour and Council shall be elected by the first *Adventurers* in *England*, when the number of *Adventurers* who will transport themselves is once known. And that the same first Governour and Council shall continue in their Office three whole yeares, from the first day of their arrival at the said Islands or *Plantation*. That all succeeding Governours and Council shall after the aforesaid term expired, be yearly chosen on the first Tuesday in December, for one whole year to come, beginning the first day of January following, by all the free-men of the said *Plantations*, by way of scrutiny and Ballotines, in such manner as is before expressed. That every person that shall transport himself to the said *Plantations*, or desire to become a Member of the same *Plantation*, shall before his admittance thereunto, acknowledge his allowance, and consent unto all and every one of these Articles; and by subscribing the same, bind himself to conformity thereunto for the future. And this to be done before he be admitted into the said Company, and before he hath any share or proportion of Land set out and assigned to him according to these Articles.

F I N I S.